Renewal

IN THE INNER CITY

Chicago City Missionary Society

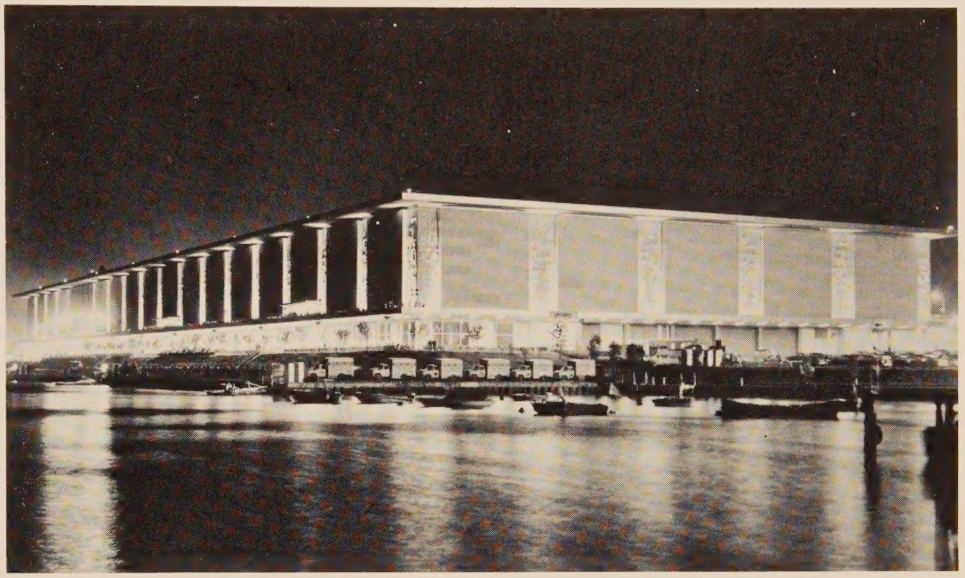
VOLUME 1 NOVEMBER 1961 NUMBER 7

Society's 79th Annual Meeting Will Be Held at McCormick Place, December 8

Each year the Chicago City Missionary Society reports to its members and friends as well as to the total Chicago community. This year, our Annual Meeting will be held at McCormick Place at 6 P.M., on Friday, December 8.

A stimulating evening is planned, with a major address on "Ministry to the Metropolis," by Dr. Gibson Winter of the Divinity School of the University of Chicago and author of the recent book, "The Suburban Captivity of the Churches." I will give a preview, entitled "Operation Renewal," of the course of the Society's program and activities during the year ahead in 1962.

This year's meeting will be the seventy-ninth for the Society. In many ways it will be an expression of the Society's continuing effort to assist in the work of the Church in the city of Chicago. But it will also be an expression of the commitment of the Society's many members and friends to the task it has chosen to undertake with the churches and communities of Chicago's inner city.



McCormick Place on Chicago's lakefront at 23rd Street is the location of the Society's 79th Annual Meeting on December 8. The view above of the new center was taken from Lake Michigan.

—Photo by Courtesy of McCormick Place

Adapts Programs to Changing City

During the 79 years of its work in the inner city, the Chicago City Missionary Society has attempted to adapt its resources and its program to the changing needs of its times. Today, it is seeking, as it has sought in the past, to relate itself with relevance and with soundness to the uniquely contemporary concerns of the communities of our city. As it undertakes this search, the Society sees itself in the company of many—its members, its friends, its fellow churchmen from the Congregational churches and from many other denominations, and its fellow citizens of a metropolitan area. In a certain sense, in fact, the Society's Annual Meeting is a statement of our common cause and our common commitment. Join with us in the work we share in the renewal of the life of the church and community.

The Rev. Dr. Gibson Winter

Tickets are $5.00 each or $50.00 for a table of 10 persons. Groups who wish to sit together are urged to make their reservations early. (A coupon on page 4 may be used.) The dinner will cost a little more than $5.00 per person but the Society will pay the extra costs. No part of the $5.00 is a donation to the Society's work.

McCormick Place may be reached by car by driving on the Outer Drive to the 23rd Street exit. There will be guards on the 23rd Street overpass to direct traffic. For those using the Illinois Central trains, get off at 23rd Street and walk east across the overpass to McCormick Place. For guests using the CTA, get off at Cermak Road and transfer to a McCormick Place shuttle bus.

An exhibit of the Society's programs and plans for its 80th year will be on display in the Banquet Room before and after the meeting.

—DONALD L. BENEDICT

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Mrs. Fay Periman gives an extra glass of milk to a hungry camper.
—Photo by Fabian, Park Ridge

Youth Ministry Helps School Drop-Outs

The CCMS Youth Ministry to unemployed school drop-outs will not only attempt to help inner city boys find jobs, but will attempt to relate the Word of God to their immediate situation and to their unique problems. The Prophets, as well as the Apostles of the early church, became entangled with the political, economic, and community institutions of their generations. They spoke specifically to the people in terms of their immediate situations, needs, and problems.

So the Youth Ministry to unemployed school drop-outs will attempt to relate the Word of God to life in 20th Century Chicago. It will be a ministry of dialogue—of questioning and listening. It will be a ministry that will often wait for the questions to be asked before answers are explored.

It will be a ministry that will attempt to meet immediate questions such as: Should a boy go back to school? Can he get into school if he does want to go back? Should a boy forget school and get a job? What kind of job should he get? What kind of job can he do? What kind of jobs are available to high school drop-outs?

It will be a ministry that hopefully will explore ultimate questions. What does the Gospel say about our relationships with one another? What does the Gospel say about our relationship with God? What does God require of us?

Pleasant Valley Farm will be used as a training and retreat center where groups of boys will come for a period of five days at a time. The boys' work during the day as farm hands will afford them an opportunity to gain some sense of work discipline.

The work program will be operated as realistically as possible. The boys will be paid by the hour, and in return will pay the farm part of their wages for room, board, and transportation. Mr. Hubert Schultz at Pleasant Valley Farm will function as their work foreman. The evenings will be devoted to sessions where the work day will be interpreted.

The boys will work four full days beginning on Monday afternoon, and ending at Friday noon, leaving Monday morning and Friday afternoon for travel. It is more than likely that a boy will work more than one week at the farm before he is ready to look for work.

When a boy seeks employment it is hoped that he not only has some sense of what the employer-employee relationship is, as well as what work discipline means, but also that he knows that he has the support of those who have worked with him. He will have established some kind of a work record, and both he and the leaders in the program will be better prepared to face employers in the search for employment.

A program of follow-up is being developed whereby contact with both employer and employee will be made possible. In this way it is hoped that many of the problems of transition will be met and overcome. The big job that lies ahead is the development of relationships with employers engaged in various kinds of work. Contacts with employers have been made, and this phase of the work promises to be one of the greatest challenges to this unique Youth Ministry.

—JOHN W. ROBERTS, JR.

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DR. RAFAEL V. MARTINEZ, Director, Casa Central
MR. HUBERT D. SCHULTZ, Pleasant Valley Farm

Mrs. Periman Accepts Position at Farm

Mrs. Fay Periman, a former employee of the McHenry County Schools, has accepted a permanent position as Director of Food Service and Housekeeping at Pleasant Valley Farm.

Mrs. Periman, a widow with grown children, now lives in an apartment in the Valley Cottage near the farmhouse.

She will be in charge of food service and housekeeping for all the weekend groups who visit Pleasant Valley during the fall, winter and spring months as well as for the summer camps. She has served in this capacity, while living in Woodstock, since 1958 and was on full-time duty during the 1961 camp season.

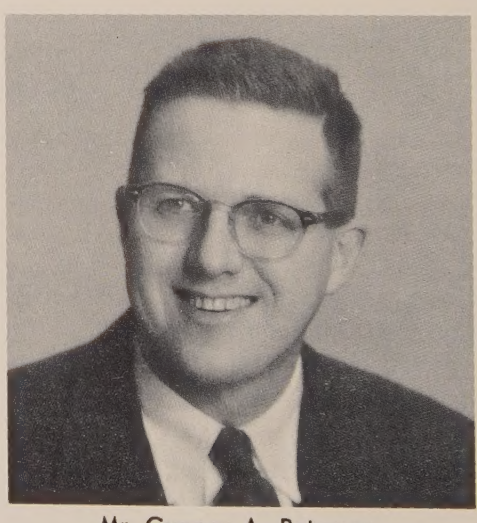
"The addition of Mrs. Periman as full-time director of food service is a valuable one to the farm programs," said Mr. Gunnar Peterson.

Will Be Candidate for ACA Office

Mr. Gunnar A. Peterson, director of CCMS Outdoor Education, will be one of the candidates for president of the American Camping Association.

The election, to be held in December, will choose the person to serve as ACA president in 1963, and also serve as president-elect in 1962.

Mr. Peterson is the former president of the Chicago section of ACA, former chairman of the ACA College Instructors' Committee, has conducted pilot courses in Camp Craft Certification, and is the present chairman of ACA's Individual Family Camping Committee.



Mr. Gunnar A. Peterson

Casa Central To Be on TV Next Month

Some of the varied activities of the Casa Central and the Society's programs with Spanish-speaking newcomers will be presented on WBBM-TV in December. Newcomers to Chicago, and the work of several churches and agencies which work with them, will be the subject of the documentary film "I See Chicago." The hour-long show is sponsored by the Illinois Bell Telephone Company and is being produced by WBBM-TV.

Mr. Hal Fisher and Mr. Harold Wallace, of the WBBM-TV public affairs office, are working with several city agencies and churches who work with the four classes of city newcomers—Puerto Ricans, Negroes, Southern Whites and American Indians.

Reviews Life of Casa Central

Part of the film will deal with the growth of the Casa Central from its beginning in 1956 in a small storefront on Ogden Avenue to its present location with a greatly expanded program, in the four-story building at 40 N. Ashland Avenue.

On November 4, 52 children sang a Spanish Christmas carol for the TV show. The bi-lingual children are members of the Music Institute which meets each Saturday morning to study music under the supervision of Mr. George Rico.

With the cooperation of Dr. Rafael V. Martinez, WBBM-TV filmed and recorded interviews in Puerto Rican homes. The activities of a doctor's clinic, with many Spanish-speaking patients, was also filmed. Dr. Martinez described many of the center's activities and served as interpreter.

Other groups such as a counseling session with Miss Carmen Ortiz, Spanish women sorting and mending winter clothes, and English classes—were also televised. The film taken at Casa Central will be edited and used with the parts dealing with the other newcomer groups.

The date for the television show has not been scheduled but "I See Chicago" will be shown about mid-December.

Miss Alphonese Joins Spanish Staff

The bi-lingual staff of the Casa Central has gained another excellent member through the arrival of Miss Mola C. Alphonese. Miss Alphonese's abilities will be put to purposeful use at the Casa Central where she will work with children and youth clubs, and serve as administrative assistant.

Miss Alphonese, the seventh child in a family of eleven, was born in the Republic of Panama. Her father, the Rev. E. S. Alphonese, served for 30 years as a missionary to the Valiente Indians on the north coast of Panama. At present he is the district chairman of the Methodist Churches of Latin America, directly affiliated with the British Diocese, England.

Miss Alphonese started her formal education in Spanish Town, Jamaica, and studied at Cambridge University, England. She came to Chicago in 1955, studied at Roosevelt University where she is completing studies for the Master's Degree in English. She has had intensive training in music at the Royal School of Music, London. She taught for five years in the elementary and high schools in the Panama Canal Zone schools.

Before joining the staff of Casa Central, Miss Alphonese worked at Roosevelt University, the Chicago Commission on Human Relations, the First Unitarian Church of Chicago, the Abraham Lincoln Center, and the Newberry Avenue Center.

Art Show, Dinner Open New Institute

The first function of the new Pan-American Cultural Institute was held at Casa Central on Friday, November 17. A Spanish dinner was served and Dr. Martinez described the purposes of the Institute, and members presented a program of Spanish folklore.

An exhibit of several oil paintings by Hella, a noted painter of Mexico City, opened the same night. The exhibit will remain at Casa Central through December 31.

Hella is associated with many prominent artists of Mexico. She was present for the opening of her show but has returned to Mexico City to prepare two more exhibits—one in Mexico City and one in Paris.

Above, 52 children of the Casa Central's Music Institute sit quietly in the Chapel while producers, camera men and sound engineers from WBBM-TV prepare to televise them singing an "aguinaldo" for the documentary film "I See Chicago."
—Photo by Manuel Rico

Miss Mola C. Alphonese

The Rev. Louis D. Mitchell (seated) director of Lawndale Community Services, confers with Mr. Clarence B. Cash, Neighborhood Worker in the Lawndale Unit of the Chicago Commission on Youth Welfare. The new offices for LCS are at 1308 S. Pulaski Road.
—Photo by Frank C. Zak

THE SOCIETY'S PAGE

Mr. Rose Starts Journalism Projects

One of the Society's new ventures this year is the Exploratory Program in Journalism. Under the direction of Stephen Rose, contact has been made with several journalists in the Chicago area. Mr. Rose has also spent time learning the city and attending meetings such as the recent regional White House Conference.

The first major effort of the Journalism Program will be the trial publication of a monthly newsletter designed to assist ministers and laymen in their attempt to understand the numerous issues and problems facing both church and community in the city.

Further information about the newsletter, including subscription forms, will appear in a future issue of *Renewal*.

Mr. Rose is also working on the production of a thirteen-week radio series on "The Face of Inner City." The program may be heard on WBBM at 9:00 P.M. each Wednesday beginning Dec. 13.

Church Charters Bus for CCMS Meeting

Mr. Randall H. Cooper and Mr. Rollin A. Brooks, CCMS directors and members of the First Congregational Church, La Grange, have chartered a bus for members who wish to attend the Society's 79th Annual Meeting. The bus will leave the church at 5:00 p.m. and return members to the church after the meeting. Other churches may wish to make similar plans for their members.

Use Coupon to Order Tickets

Please reserve_____tickets at $5.00 each or_____tables at $50 each (tables seat 10) for the 79th Annual Meeting of the Chicago City Missionary Society, Friday, December 8, 1961, at 6:00 P.M. at McCormick Place.

I enclose $_____.

Name_____

Street_____

City_____ State_____

Church_____

Please send reservations, with check or cash to Howard A. Hindley, Room 1302, 19 South La Salle Street, Chicago 3, Illinois. Tickets will be mailed until December 5.

Mrs. J. P. Pancoast

Mrs. Pancoast Resigns CCMS Position

Mrs. J. P. Pancoast, director of Christian Friendship Service since March 1954, has resigned her position and will leave the Society within the next few weeks.

Mrs. Pancoast has been an excellent and well-known worker in Congregational organizations for many years. She served on the Society's staff as secretary for the Chicago Woman's Fellowship from the fall of 1947 to the fall of 1950.

From 1950 to 1955, she served as secretary for the Illinois Woman's Fellowship (under the Illinois Congregational Christian Conference) and worked in the Missions Council office for six months.

During the seven and a half years she served as Director of Christian Friendship Service, Mrs. Pancoast has been instrumental in getting food, clothing and furniture for hundreds of needy inner city people. Mrs. Pancoast's work was the bridge between the friends who supplied the material aid and those who needed the aid. She has been in charge of such special interests as the Society's Christmas gift project and the drive for warm clothing to help keep children in school.

Although her work with the Society was only three days a week, she spent many additional days in handling clothing and furniture deliveries from her home.

Hundreds of residents of the Midwest have toured the inner city on the bus tours organized and promoted by Mrs. Pancoast. She has been in charge of the arrangements for the inner city bus tours since they were originated in 1955.

The Society and Mrs. Pancoast's many friends are sincerely grateful to her for her years of dedicated service.

Tells Differences Between Societies

The Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry, in a recent news bulletin to its members, has again called attention to the differences between the Chicago City Missionary Society, 19 S. La Salle st., and the Chicago Missionary Society, 2016 Evergreen ave.

The Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry's news bulletin said, "The Chicago Missionary Society, 2016 Evergreen ave., *should not be confused with* the Chicago City Missionary Society of the Congregational Churches, 19 S. La Salle st., a well established, recognized agency, working for the general welfare of Chicago residents since 1882."

Inquiries about the programs, purposes and operation of the two organizations may be made by calling the Association at Fr 2-7700.

Use Coupon for Gifts to CCMS

The Society's annual appeal for funds to support its inner city programs will be mailed in November. If you do not receive the brochure and letter and wish to contribute you may use the coupon below.

Mail to:
Chicago City Missionary Society
19 S. La Salle St., Room 1302
Chicago 3, Illinois

Enclosed is $_____ for the Society's inner city programs.

Name_____

Street_____

City_____ State_____

Church_____